

# THE C4 NEWSLETTER

*Colonial Coin Collectors Club*



*Winter 1996*

*Volume 3 number 4*

**The C4 Newsletter** Volume 3, number 4.

A quarterly published by  
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The coins on the cover were graciously donated to C4 by Colonial Trading. They are being sold to benefit C4. See page 6 for more information.

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**Editor's Notes and News****Dan Freidus**

I have received a number of letters welcoming me as editor. Thanks to all. I am glad that people enjoyed the last issue. Remember that I need contributions from members: letters, articles, ads, and news are all welcome. If you have a coin that other folks would learn from or just enjoy seeing, send me a photo or contact me and we'll arrange to take a photo (but please don't send me coins without contacting me first). This may include nice specimens of rare varieties, or common pieces with interesting strikes or defects that shed light on the minting technology being used.

In the last issue, I proposed putting together a directory of dealers. I did get a volunteer to help prepare the directory (Charles Sullivan, Thanks!) , but only one dealer responded. Do you all have as much business as you can handle, or do you assume that every C4 member already knows you? If dealers start to respond, we will proceed, otherwise I will assume there is no interest among dealers.

C4 members may place free classified ads up to 10 lines (a quarter page). You may include a photo with your ad at our cost (\$5) and still have 10 lines of text. Black and white photo needed, high contrast reproduces best. Size can be adjusted to fit.

Display ads are available at the following prices:

	1 issue	2 issues	4 issues	copy size
1 page	\$50	\$75	\$125	4-1/2" x 7-1/2"
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1/4 page	\$15	\$25	\$40	3-1/2" x 1-7/8"

Please send a check with ad copy. I can accept camera ready copy or computer files in various formats for display ads. For a very modest fee I can accept camera-ready copy and

have our print shop scan photos, resize and place into your ad. Contact me for more info. Everyone benefits when we can illustrate lots of coins in both ads and articles so I will do everything to make sure future issues are well-illustrated.

A number of folks identified the coin on the cover of the last issue. I got responses from Dave Cleaves, Sol Schaffer, Ray Williams, and Marc Duvall correctly attributing it as Vermont Ryder-27 and Rob Retz, Tony Carlotto, and Pete Smith identified this particular specimen as Earle (H.Chapman 6/12) lot 2000-Ryder-Boyd-Ford ("Frontenac" sale, B&M 11/91) lot 109. I'll shell out seven half pence for not being clear enough that I was looking for more than just the die variety. If you have a question or photo for a future quiz, or an item to donate as a prize for a quiz, contact me.

The Coinage of the Americas Conference last October at the ANS was superb. The topic was "Coinage of the American Confederation." Following a gracious welcome by both ANS executive director Les Elam and COAC Committee Chair Don Partrick, the Conference Chair Phil Mossman gave a fine overview of the historical and numismatic context. Then Charles Smith presented his analysis of British counterfeit halfpence by date, weight, shape, along with comparisons of Royal and counterfeit halfpence. John Kleeberg discussed the importation of halfpence and data from shipwrecks, focusing on the Indian River inlet and "Coin Beach" in Delaware. Eric Newman started his discussion of the Nova Constellatio/Constellatio Nova debate and other issues relating to these coppers with an apology for being "late" with research he started in 1957. Pete Smith's talk on Vermont coppers was canceled but will be included in the conference proceedings, a book sure to find a place on the shelves of all C4 members. Jim Goudge discussed some Connecticut dies including 7.1 and 7.3 of 1785; 5.1, 5.3, 5.5, 5.7, and 5.10 of 1786; and 1.2 of 1787. Dick Doty presenting an intriguing talk on Boulton, Watt & Company's Soho Mint and an unsuccessful 1786 South

Carolina coinage proposal. George Fuld finished the afternoon with a presentation about his new book and numbering system on "Washington Colonial Coinage." So much was presented that day that I can't wait to see the conference proceedings to learn some of what couldn't be absorbed in one sitting.



### ***C4 Benefit Mail Bid Sale!***

Colonial Trading has graciously donated to C4 the New Jersey coppers on the cover of this issue. We'll sell them by mail bid to the highest bid by April 6. The estimates are from Colonial Trading. There are no reserves. All the money goes to C4. No charge for shipping. Send bids to your editor.

Number 1 is Maris 6-D, "late die state, VG-F." The obverse uneven in detail, the result of the late die state, and , of course, wear. In person, one can make out a bit of the first 2 digits of the date. The reverse is somewhat stronger and more even, but there are a few small pits which show up as black marks in the photo. Surfaces are fairly nice, though definitely not perfectly smooth. estimate \$90.

The second coin is a Maris 38-Y, described by Colonial Trading as "VF, granular with edge bruises. Struck slightly off-center toward 6:00." Yes, this coin has been banged around. The problems with this coin, or interesting features (depending on your point of view), started before it was struck. The planchet was of somewhat uneven thickness and had a slight lamination, visible at 6 o'clock obverse and 12 o'clock reverse. There are also some marks on the obverse with regular orientation suggesting they are the result of rolling the copper stock for planchets. Is this coin less desirable because of its "defects" or more interesting because the imperfections could inform us about the

technology of mints of the Confederation (We can't call them Confederate mints, just doesn't sound right.) estimate \$185.

**BUILDING YOUR  
REFERENCE LIBRARY**

Bidding in one of our mail-bid sales of numismatic literature is one of the easiest and best ways to acquire needed reference material. Our next sale will be held in April 1996.

As a member of C4, you are eligible to receive a complimentary catalog of this fine sale. Please send us your name and address so that we may add you to our mailing list.

"Knowledge is the key to enrichment!"

**FRED L. LAKE - FUNCTION ASSOCIATES**

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St. Petersburg, FL 33710  
(813) 343-8055  
FAX: (813) 381-6822

**Letters, &c.**

*Byron Weston*

*(editor's note: In the last issue, I noted that I had received a letter from Byron Weston but misplaced it. I am glad to say that he saw that note, forgave me, and sent another letter addresses a few additional points.)*

My original concern was that I believe I was misquoted by Michael Hodder in that I did not suggest that all crude counterfeit halfpence may be linked to British evasions. I believe that I was actually referring to counterfeits with a



style similar to AK-15. In the Griffee sale there are 2 nice examples of this "style", lots 572 and 583. Other similar pieces have basically the same characteristics. The one outstanding feature is also quite evident on a few of the farthing pieces illustrated in the sale.

The interesting thing about this style is that it is the same as that used on at least one British evasion, Atkins-95. (A-97, which is obviously related to A-95, has a crude Irish style reverse.) Unfortunately, both of these evasions are out on a limb since, as far as I know, they don't link to anything else in the evasion field. Nonetheless, it is interesting that this possible link to a few outright counterfeits does exist. All the "simian pole arm" styles that I have seen appear to be made from entirely hand cut dies, as does this related evasion reverse. Unless an outright counterfeit using the same reverse die as A-95 is found, I can offer no conclusive proof.

Mike Hodder's suggestion that the so-called "banana nose" counterfeit may be American is, I feel, an assuming statement. This, and many other crude styles, may never be able to be linked with anything else because of their unique and distinct style. Although numismatics is certainly not always an exact science, it should nonetheless strive to be. We, as students of this science, will likely never be certain of many things. Our "evidence", in many cases, has been lost to history. Sometimes we must learn to accept the unknown as the unknown.

Sometimes we also overlook the obvious. In reference to my opinion that coins weren't scarce in colonial America, one must study and understand the evolution of the colonial economy. (Douglas Ball presented an excellent overview of this in his "The American Currency, 1607-1789" in the last C4 Newsletter.) The colonists were very resourceful, using everything from wampum to tobacco and "money of account." A lot of the colonial economy was kept on the books, as it were. The colonists made do with what they

had to work with, which included an ample supply of Spanish colonial coinage. However, this required conversion back and forth between pounds, shillings, and pence and the fractions of the "pieces of eight." In a nutshell, the colonists desired more "coin of the realm."

Mike had suggested that I write an article about this and present some hard evidence for my opinion. At present my "day job" is quite demanding, with mandatory overtime, and I am still quite involved in gathering evidence to prove the evasion-counterfeit connection. From my own experience, a thoroughly researched and referenced article requires considerable time. I also feel that such research should probably be more properly presented within the pages of "The Colonial Newsletter." I see "The C4 Newsletter" more as a forum for opinion and conjecture, for news and happenings. Perhaps the C4 Board should develop some sort of guidelines to clarify the scope of the contents of "The C4 Newsletter" or, perhaps, just leave that to you, the editor?

I have thought of contributing an article, when I can find the time, on what coins circulated in the colonial/Confederation era. Something informative yet entertaining. Perhaps one fault I have is that information I have gleaned from my own studies I have a tendency to consider "common knowledge." I would like to share a little of my "common knowledge" with fellow C4ers!

There is one more item of interest about counterfeits in the Griffie sale. Lots 608 and 620 are the same variety with different degrees of wear. I have 3 pieces of this "spiked chin" brockage. I have yet to see this obverse married with any reverse die. It is rather unique and distinctive in style. Since there may be no pairing of a reverse with this obverse, could be that this is more of a variety than an error."

*(editor's note: I am glad to let a debate started before my tenure continue. However, I hope that other C4 members don't feel that this newsletter is mainly for "opinion and conjecture." I hope that issues raised here can continue to be dealt with within our pages, including the results of research spurred on by these discussions. I feel this way for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that future collectors will find it easier to access a debate if all of its components are within one publication. That is why, for example, I understand the continuation of John Griffie's N.J. series (started before C4 existed) in Penny-Wise. Our club and Newsletter have gotten off to a strong start, but if we are to continue it is important that we use this newsletter as a forum for research and discoveries as well as for news and opinions. Along those lines, in the next issue, I will present an annotated bibliography of doctoral dissertations relevant to early American numismatics.)*



*John Dirnbauer*

This adventure started last July when my wife, Mickey, and I took our daughter, Jennifer, on a "college visit" to the University of Virginia. No visit to Charlottesville would be complete without stumbling around the historical sites. Monticello and its grounds are a site to behold. The Visitors' Center exhibit hall is one of the best that I have seen. The displays are attractive, well-sequenced, and very interesting. The only problem, from my perspective, is credibility. I noticed that a worn Wood's farthing was labeled as being a U.S. large cent. If a coin is mislabeled, what other misattributions may be present in the exhibit hall? The curator was not present, so I left a note for him. Here is part of his reply:

"Dear Sir,

Some time ago you ... pointed out that one of our coins on display may be British rather than American in origin. As you may have noticed, the coin is well worn and

any detail on it is difficult to make out. Not a numismatist myself, I cannot personally make an attribution. The attribution is [from a Master's thesis based on archaeological work at Monticello]. Whitley names the coin as an American large cent due to its dimensions and to a lesser degree archaeological context. She does however leave open the possibility that the coin may be in fact Irish or possibly counterfeit, but as of yet we have received no definite confirmation one way or another. Thank you for your interest in our exhibit.

Sincerely,

Nathan Farris

Archaeological Lab Supervisor

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation"

*(John wrote back to Mr. Farris indicating that the coin was actually an example of Wood's "Hibernia" coinage. He recommended John Kraljevich as a local authority (John is now a student at University of Virginia) who could be consulted for more detailed attribution.*

*In December, John (Dirnbauer, not Kraljevich) wrote again, with no update of the Monticello incident, but mentioning that he had contacted a U.S. Park Service curator in Philadelphia who was enthusiastic about using C4 members as a resource when curators of historic sites encounter early American numismatic items. She said that she would spread the word among her colleagues. Let's hope that we our collective knowledge can have a positive impact on exhibits that reach a broader public than do most numismatic displays. Numismatics can be an important part of local history. If you have historical societies or historic sites near your home, check out their exhibits and suggest that they incorporate relevant numismatic material into exhibits when appropriate and steer them to folks who can attribute material they already own, or can loan or sell them coins or currency.)*



John Griffiee writes asking about lot 2991 of Coin Galleries' sale of 8 November 1995. It is a lot of 2 New Jersey coppers. One is described as "M.16-C", which left John wondering whether it was a discovery of a new variety. Had this been an internet inquiry, I assume he would have planted his tongue firmly in his cheek with the use of something such as ;-) (a sideways winking smile, for those as yet uncomputerized, or at least not yet networked) As one who is an editor by day, I gather this is simply a typo. If the purchaser is within earshot (eyeshot?), would you care to tell us what it really is? My bet is on M.16-L, with a slight chance of M.6-C. A sloppy handwritten "L", or a stray mark on the page would explain these errors. I don't have a PRL for this sale, but that would probably verify that it's a known (and relatively common) variety. It's hard to imagine that any cataloguer at Stack's would put a new variety in a Coin Galleries sale, let alone leave it unphotographed.

Actually, I am amazed how few typos make it into auction catalogs, given the hectic schedules of most auction houses. I do, however, recall picking up a 1787 Connecticut, M 33.29-Z.7, which had been cataloged (not by C.G. or Stack's) as M 33.29-C.7, suggesting that the cataloguer dictated lot descriptions into a tape recorder.



### Message from the President

**Angel Pietri**

We pulled it off! This past October, we celebrated our first annual convention. Some people thought we were crazy trying to do this so soon. And I must admit that Dennis Wierzba and myself were somewhat scared coming into the convention. Would the members show up? Would the dealers do well? Would we have a successful auction?

It seems that for a few minor glitches (experience gained for the future), all of the above were answered with a firm yes! I would like to thank all the volunteers that helped, all the dealers that gave us their backing, all those auction consignors, and all those who attended, and to Chris McCawley and Bob Grellman who ran a great auction as well as donating the t-shirts and convention medal dies. A special thank you is owed to Dennis Wierzba, Bijan Anvar and Greg Ruby, who between them did most of the work, and to Ray Williams for organizing the New Jersey symposium.

Plans are already underway to repeat the convention next fall. Jim Rosen has volunteered to head this effort, and McCawley and Grellman have been asked to run another auction for us then. We could be looking at a return to New Jersey with MANA, somewhere in the Connecticut area, or to Boston. We will also be exploring the possibility of a joint venture with EAC. We hope to have more details in the near future. If you have any ideas, or are willing to help Jim out, please contact Jim or me.

Adding to the good news, I am very happy to announce that the IRS has given us an Advance Ruling granting C4 tax exempt status as a 501 (c) (3) organization for the period July 14, 1995 through December 31, 1999. This means that all contributions to C4 submitted after July 14, 1995 are tax deductible.

We have also continued to work on the Photofile. We currently have about 300 coins photographed. Included here is the whole John Griffie New Jersey collection, photographs courtesy of McCawley and Grellman. And we will have over 400 hopefully after the FUN show. I am enclosing in this issue a copy of a choice New Jersey 12-G photographed at the convention. I will try to include other choice coins in future issues for all to enjoy. For those of

you who may want your coins photographed, you can catch me next at EAC.

Enclosed in this issue you will also find the nomination form for the next election. Please feel free to nominate anyone you feel is a good candidate for any of the national offices or for your region representative. In the spring issue of the Newsletter we will include the ballots for the election, with the winners to assume their posts this summer.

In closing, I feel that 1995 was a successful year for the club. I hope you all agree. For 1996, I would like to wish the club and every one of you a Happy New Year!



### *Minutes of the C4 General Meeting October 21, 1995- Pennsauken, NJ*

#### Members present:

Bijan Anvar	H. Clay Blaney	John Bolger
Steve Chandler	John Dirnbauer	Dan Freidus
Rudy Gilberti	Jim Goudge	Steve Hayden
Buell Ish	Frank Jozapartis	Dana Linett
John Lorenzo	George Lyman	Tom Madigan
Francis McGrath	Mitch Mitchell	Peter Mosiondz
Ken Mote	Mike Packard	David Palmer
George Perkins	Angel Pietri	Rob Retz
Tom Rinaldo	Mike Ringo	James Rosen
Clem Schettino	Tom Sebring	Russ Smith
Frank Steimle	Sheldon Siegel	Stan Stephens
Steve Tannenbaum	Tony Terranova	Dennis Wierzba
Mike Wierzba	Ray Williams	Dave Wnuck

1- The meeting was opened by Angel Pietri who started by thanking all those members who helped organize the convention, as well as the many volunteers. Dennis Wierzba passed out certificates of recognition to all the convention

exhibitors. Special mention was given to McCawley and Grellman who, besides conducting the auction, donated part of the auction proceeds, the convention token dies and the convention t-shirts to the club.

2- The location of the auction to be conducted that night was announced. Tom Rinaldo announced that lot pickup would be available Sunday morning rather than right after the auction as some people believed.

3- Plans for future conventions were discussed, as well as possible sites and possible joint activities with EAC were discussed. Jim Rosen volunteered to lead the efforts for site selection for next year.

4- Angel Pietri discussed the pending status of our application for tax free status with the IRS. Cautious optimism was voiced.

5- Angel Pietri announced that he would be photographing coins for the C4 Photofile at the C4 table.

6- The upcoming election of officers for the next term (July, '96- June, '98) was discussed. It was decided that Dan Freidus would be in charge of handling the nomination and election process. Nominations for the national positions (Pres., VP, Treasurer) would be accepted from any member. Nominations for each regional VP's will be accepted from within each region only.

7- Dan Freidus requested contributions for the newsletter from all members on any colonial subject. However, he emphasized that articles could be scientific as well as personal experiences and anecdotes of interest.

8- Dan Freidus announced the COAC meeting scheduled at the ANS in New York City the following week.



9- George Perkins asked for any information that could be of help in his Connecticut Condition Census research.

*(editor's note: George, contact me if you'd like me to publish this request in the next newsletter. I am glad to publicize research but don't publish anyone's address or phone unless they have requested it.)*

10- John Dirnbauer discussed the misattribution of a copper piece in the Monticello museum of the U. of Virginia at Charlottesville, Virginia. He believes that a Woods Hibernia copper is misattributed as a large cent.

11- Dana Linett announced that his firm would be conducting an auction through the Internet in early 1996.

12- The availability of free Compuserve starter kits (courtesy of Bijan Anvar), as well as the sale of convention copper tokens and t-shirts at the C4 table was mentioned.

13- Rob Retz announced that Walter Breen's personal copy of the "EAC Midnight Sale" would be auctioned off that evening during the main auction, with proceeds going to C4.

14- A letter from Jeff Rock to Angel Pietri, explaining his absence from the C4 convention, was read publicly at Jeff Rock's request.



### **C4 Bourse Dealers**

Here's a list of the dealers who actually ended up on the bourse at the C4 convention. Thanks to all of them for taking a risk on our first convention. (I do notice, however, that not all of them are C4 members. I propose that only C4 members be allowed to participate in next year's bourse. This isn't an effort to exclude anyone, only an attempt to get them to join the club.)

**Tony Carlotto**, Sheffield, Massachusetts  
**Colonial Trading**, Boston, Massachusetts  
**Early American Numismatics**, La Jolla, California  
**Steve Hayden**, Greenville, SC  
**McCawley & Grellman Auctions**, Edmond, Oklahoma  
**Robert Miller**, Elmwood Park, NJ  
**Don Mituzas/David Palmer**, Croton Falls, NY  
**Tom Reynolds**, Omaha, Nebraska  
**Robert Rhue**, Aurora, Colorado  
**Mike Ringo/Don Valenziano**, Albany, NY  
**Rossa & Tannenbaum**, Brooklyn, NY  
**R.M. Smythe**, New York, NY  
**Anthony Terranova**, New York, NY  
**Treasure Chest Coins**, South Chatham, Massachusetts  
**Yesteryear Coins**, Bolinas, California  
**Chris Young**, Tilghman Island, Maryland



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#### ANNOUNCING

**2nd PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF NUMISMATIC LITERATURE. JANUARY 27, 1996.  
FEATURING THE COURTNEY L. COFFING COLLECTION.**

**GOOD EDUCATIONAL NUMISMATIC LITERATURE IN EXCEPTIONAL CONDITION.**

1931 partially- priced post-ANA sale. **FIRST TIME OFFERED**-1936 ANA sale. Matt Rother's original manuscripts for "A Guide Book of U.S. Fractional Currency". Early Canadian CNA & Canadian Coin Exchange sales & FPL. John Adams' 2 sewn but unbound books. 1963 Babelon in mint condition. Detroit Philatelist Periodical with George Heath as 1st President. Bound 1st 4 volumes of Mason's Coin & Stamp Collectors Magazine with 2 plates. Rare Katen 28th sale. First appearance of Lee's 1874 Roman Imperial Photographs. Mint copies of Wroth reprints. Ravel coll. of Tarentine Coins. 1st Haseltine fixed price list. 51 R.C. Bell articles. Oriental Numismatic Society. **TITLES BY:** Akerman, Belden, Bolender, Bowers, Bradbeer, Breglia, Breton, Davenport, Elder, Friedberg, Grant, Harris, Heath, Hibbler, Kahn, Maris, Pye, Smith, Steigerwalt, Venn, Charlton, Empire Coin, Sotheby, Frossard, Mehl, Sage, Bangs, Scott Stamp & Co, Galster, Porteous, Rauta, Schulthess-Rechberg, Sobin and more. World wide material from the Americas, Europe, Eastern Europe and Asia for your consideration. United States Paper Money, Copper, Colonial, Tokens, Silver, Patterns, etc. Plus continuing articles. Call 1-800-789-7005, Order your auction catalog now for \$10.00 or a numbered copy for \$12.95. 8 guest catalogers will again assist in cataloging this sale to help you "Discover what's behind the cover" and remember, I accept Visa-Mastercard. I will have a table at the 1996 FUN show and look forward to doing business, meeting, or chatting with you.

## 1995 Convention Donors

This list has been revised to include those whose donations arrived too late to be acknowledged in the convention program. Our apologies to any who made a donation before the convention but weren't included on the earlier list. I believe that I can speak for our entire membership in saying that these donations are greatly appreciated because they contributed to the success of our first convention and helped assure that there will be future C4 conventions. Total donations amounted to \$2877.

### ***Brasher's Circle:***

Tony Carlotto  
Colonial Trading  
Donald Groves  
Joseph Lasser  
McCawley & Grellman  
David Menchell  
Middle Atlantic Numismatic Association (MANA)  
Angel Pietri  
Greg Ruby  
Dennis Wierzba

### ***Continental Dollar Circle:***

Walter Boyd

### ***Shilling Circle:***

Dan Freidus, Rudolph Gilberti, David Gladfelter, John Griffee, Buell Ish, Judith Matherne, Robert Miller, Mitch Mitchell, Ken Mote, George Perkins, Robert Rhue, Tom Rinaldo, Mary Sauvain, Clem Schettino, Timothy Taylor, Richard Theis, Myron Xenos

### ***Halfpenny Circle:***

Mike Bristow, Dan Carroll, Don Chamberlain, Steve Chandler, John Dirnbauer, Nathaniel Fick, Prudence Fitts,

John Ford, Eric Hildebrant, Francis McGrath, Sam Nacol, Michael Packard, Doug Pryor, James Rosen, Neil Rothschild, Steve Saari, Richard Schaefer, E. F. Schwam, Tom Sebring, Leo Shane, Terry Stahurski, Frank Steimle, Stan Stephens, Charles Sullivan, Harold Sundby, Jr., Dorothy Victorson, Andrew Wells, Ray Williams

*Imitation Halfpenny Circle:*  
in the name of Mike Ringo



### **C4 Convention Notes**

*Dennis Wierzba, convention chair*

Our first convention was a great success due to the energy and enthusiasm of the members of C4.

First and foremost, I thank the colonial, copper and token dealers who joined us at our first convention. I hope they all had a financially successful show.

In addition to producing an outstanding catalog that featured the John Griffie collection, M&G auctions donated 2% of the sale proceeds to C4, totaling \$4606. Additional donated lots in the catalog provided another \$828. Dealing with Bob and Chris was a true pleasure and they did a professional job in every aspect of the auction. Their high quality auction catalog raised the first convention to a memorable event. They have agreed to hold another colonial auction at our October 1996 convention. Already several people have indicated interest in consigning for 1996. They have donated the few remaining catalogs to C4 for sale at \$15 postpaid.

I would also like to thank the many volunteers that set up tables, staffed the auction viewing and C4 tables, set up exhibits, spoke as part of the educational programs or

brought audio-visual equipment. My list of volunteers is as follows: Ray Williams, Angel Pietri, Bijan Anvar, Mike Wierzba, Tom Madigan, Jim Rosen, Bob Martin, Dave Menchell, Jim Goudge, Tony Terranova, John Griffiee, Leo Shane, Bob Metzger, Frank Steimle, Spencer Peck, John Dirnbauer, Rich Schaefer, Syd Martin, Ken Mote, John Lorenzo, Dave Palmer, Steve Chandler, Stan Stephens, Lanny Reinhardt, John Kraljevich, Jr., John Sandlock, Roger Moore, Dave Townson and Dan Freidus. If I have forgotten anyone, please blame my record-keeping and accept my apologies. I would like to especially recognize Bijan Anvar, Dan Freidus, Tom Madigan, Don Mituzas, Angel Pietri, Tom Rinaldo, Greg Ruby, Michael Wierzba and Ray Williams for the leadership roles they played in making the first C4 convention the great event it was.

The bottom line for the convention was a \$2200 profit for the C4 treasury, greatly exceeding my expectation of just breaking even.

P.S. Copper convention tokens are still available at \$5 each from Don Mituzas.



## **The First C4 Convention**

**Tony Carlotto**

The long awaited first annual C-4 convention has come and gone. When we were all younger Christmas was the biggest wait of all. As I grew older and wiser it switched to the EAC convention. Now it's gonna be like Santa twice a year. I don't know if I can stand it. We are very lucky to have another organization dedicated to early coppers. There is no other collecting group as fortunate as we are in early coppers to have groups like EAC, C-4 and the Colonial Newsletter to support our passions and habits. Getting back to the subject; the wait was just as good as an old Christmas. I

am still reeling from copper shock. The amount of copper gazing and information sharing is still sinking in. There is nothing like it in any other area of numismatics.

The officers and representatives of C-4 did a fantastic job in all areas. Dennis Wierzba, Angel Pietri and all others are to be commended for the fine showing of members and all those "raw coins." If one ever needs experience, come to a copper event. I never fail to learn a great deal at one of these happenings. The exhibits are mouth watering. Jim Goudge let us see a Connecticut display that was more than awesome. The seminars on all subjects were enjoyed by all who attended.

In case you didn't know, I have a special affection for Vermont coppers and had a display at my table for "hands on" sharing. Elsewhere in this issue you should find a plea for information. I would appreciate any help you can contribute. The strength of this club relies on its members and we sure have a strong group. Long live C4.



### ***The Third New Jersey Copper Symposium*** ***October 20, 1995 at the C4 Convention***

*Ray Williams*

The Third New Jersey Copper Symposium started at 5 PM and lasted almost 5 hours. Dennis Wierzba started off, discussing the practicality of using the present EAC rarity scale when classifying NJ coppers. EAC's R-1, R-2, and R-3 don't fit any NJ coppers. The rarity scale in Bill Anton's 1975 CNL article on New Jerseys was much closer to reality. Nobody knew what scale Michael Hodder uses when he catalogs. A decision was made not to change the rarity scale used for New Jersey coppers without first checking with experts in other colonial areas.

Dennis has made a chart comparing the disagreeing rarity ratings in the Griffie catalog. When cataloging John

Griffie's New Jerseys, Michael Hodder gave the rarity of each variety. Where there were disagreements between his database, Griffie's records, and earlier NJ Symposium findings, Michael listed all 3 opinions. After discussing all the varieties for which there were disagreement, only one caused significant concern. This was Maris 65-u, for which Michael dropped the rarity from R-5 to R-2. There was general agreement that R-5 was too high but R-2 too low.

John Lorenzo gave an abbreviated talk about the Atlee "broken A" punch - a synopsis of the talk he was to give the following week at the ANS for their Coinage of the Americas Conference. There was much discussion about the relevance of the punch linkage and its usefulness as a research tool. Many differing opinions were been presented by the time we had to stop to get on with the rest of the evening's program.

John provided handout material on his talk along with the third revision of the New Jersey Copper Condition Census.

John Griffie provided an advance copy of Part 27 of his Penny-Wise series, this one covering Maris 66-v. John also gave out some supplemental information regarding some lots in the auction of his collection.

Also provided was a handout of Walter Breen's unpublished manuscript on New Jersey coppers. (*Ray was unable to obtain an acceptable copy of page 68 in time for the C4 convention but he has since obtained one. Anyone who has the MS and wants the missing page can get one by sending Ray a business-sized SASE. His address is in the intro to the Breen MS.*) Although much information in this MS is outdated, it would have become a classic if it had reached print in 1955. I understand that the person Walter was working for would not provide the \$400 necessary to publish it. What is invaluable is the information Walter gives on provenances and die states. This work will

be valued by all who received it. I'm sure Walter is happy knowing that his work has not gone unnoticed or forgotten.

The main theme for the symposium was die states. Tom Madigan, who had written a 3 part series in Penny-Wise about die states of New Jersey coppers, came to conduct this section of the symposium. Given the large attendance, it was decided to have collectors bring forward one variety at a time and they were compared using a video camera and large screen monitor for all to see. This worked well for coins which could be removed from their holders, but proved less than ideal for coins in plastic or cardboard 2x2 holders because of reflection problems. Many interesting die states were seen, one of the most memorable being a Maris 16-L on which it was plainly visible that there was a die chip at 3 o'clock on the obverse, not a rim cud as is generally believed.

Bill Anton brought a Maris 74-bb which was a fascinating coin. Dr. Maris believed this variety to be coulterless and also without a swingletree. The coin Bill brought clearly showed both a coulter and swingletree. Bill also brought a dazzling progressive die state set of Maris q reverses. It has now become tradition for Bill to bring something which will take your breath away to each New Jersey Copper Symposium.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in the third New Jersey Copper Symposium. The success of these events is directly proportional to the involvement of all present. If anyone has ideas of suggestions for the Fourth New Jersey Symposium, please let me know.





C4 at ANA 1995

*The minutes of the C4 meeting at last August's ANA meeting finally found their way to me from scribe Larry Gaye (via Michael Hodder) about the same time the fall issue was being mailed. So here they are, belated, but hopefully still interesting.*

The meeting was called to order by Region 7 representative Tom Rinaldo at 1:05 PM on August 18, 1995.

Members in attendance were:

David Alexander, Donald Anderson, Mike Bristow, Prue Morgan Fitts, George Fitzgerald, Larry Gaye, Donald Groves, Dana Linett, Bob Metzger, Lanny Reinhardt, Rob Retz, Tom Rinaldo, Mike Ringo, Greg Ruby, Real Rothschild, and Mary Sauvain. Non-members in attendance were William Gibbs (of Coin World), Eugene Freeman, and David Showers.

After welcoming members and guests, Tom Rinaldo announced that the earlier canceled Colonial Coin Symposium that was canceled was back on due to the gracious participation of John Kleeberg, Don Groves, and Eric Newman. Because of unavoidable conflicts Mike Hodder and C4 President Angel Pietri were unable to attend. Special thanks to all involved for the effort to continue.

Under "Old Business", Greg Ruby updated the news of the upcoming Philadelphia show and C4 convention. Discussion ensued regarding the "how do I get there" question. Lanny Reinhardt volunteered (read "opened his big mouth") to supply a map for all of the participants. A motion was proposed and passed by the membership to include the map and airport transportation information in a mailing to the membership. Thanks, Lanny, it was really appreciated.

Under "New Business", a discussion ensued regarding future C4 possible convention sites, including New York City. Don Groves piqued the interest of all with the suggestion of the possibility of using the new ANS headquarters in conjunction with the Coinage of the Americas Conference (COAC) when they move and if the new facilities permit.

### Convention discoveries:

There were 3 finds including Tom Rinaldo's discovery of a M.42-O Connecticut. This is only the fifth known and only the second available for private ownership. It will be in the upcoming C4 convention auction. (*Editors note: lot 316, which realized \$3520.*) Also, high condition census Fugios were found: a 13-N (by Rob Retz) and a 12-S (by Tom Rinaldo) which appears to be the finest known. Sounds as if, once again, knowledge is power.

With the successful search for a new editor completed, Don Groves moved that a letter be written to the new editor. The motion passed and Don has kindly volunteered to write the letter.

The final item of discussion was concerning Jeff Rock. It was agreed that feelings vary within the membership. It was felt that at this point it is best to wait and that no action is pending. It seems that conviction would provide grounds for dismissal.

The meeting was adjourned and the participants moved back to the floor of the convention to see what they could see (and buy). Let the record state that Lanny Reinhardt and Larry Gaye put in an hour and a half staffing the joint C4, EAC, and NBS table. Others who volunteered will be thanked as their names become known.



August 22, 1995

# Congratulations Are In Order

I first met Dan Freidus at an ANS COAC conference where he presented an outstanding paper on Higley coppers. He is a biologist and we found a common interest, other than coins, in wildlife management. We traded information and I am indebted to him for the many tips he shared with me. He certainly impressed me as a caring and sharing decent fellow.

Dan - - No. 1: I congratulate you for taking on the job as editor of the C4 Newsletter. A major undertaking for a private individual, one which requires constant dedication and selfless allocation of time and resources. Incidentally, the booklet style is very easy to travel with for leisure reading on the plane or the train.

Dan - - No. 2: Congratulations on your recent academic achievement, a Doctorate!

Dan - - No. 3: I saved the best for last- at C4's ANA meeting it was unanimously voted to congratulate you on your outstanding interception of the Higley copper belonging to the Connecticut State Library. For those who may not be aware, Dan was instrumental in catching and saving one of the most valuable Higley coppers extant today. Dan, it's amazing how your extensive research led to your spotting this coin in a dealer's inventory. The highest accolades to you for a fantastic job well done.

Don Groves



## C4 Meeting at F.U.N.

John Griffiee

I called the meeting to order at 10 AM as scheduled and introduced officers present: Pietri, Rinaldo, and Griffiee.

Others in attendance were George Fitzgerald, Steve Hayden, Frank McGrath, Stan Stephens, Clem Schettino, Bruce Patton, and Jim Rosen; as well as one non-member, Bill Weber.

Angel Pietri gave us an update on the club: the success of the convention in October and the status of plans for a 1996 convention.

I passed out a 1 page advance copy of the condition census for N.J. M-21-O (60 examples, reducing it from R-6 to R-5).

I also passed out a Condition Census Quickfinder sheet, indicating Maris die variety, rarity, and date the census was printed in EAC's Penny-Wise.

The recent announcement that PCGS will now accept all colonials was discussed. Their press release described demand as "overwhelming." We all wondered "by whom?"

I gave out the following "numismatic puzzle" which was discussed.

### *Mark Newby's St. Patrick Farthing*

One side: Charles V, playing a harp.

Opposite side: St. Patrick, holding a Metropolitan Cross, with church in background.

*All who believe the king is on the obverse: raise your right hand.*

*All who believe St. Patrick is on the obverse: raise your left hand.*

*All who don't give a damn: raise both hands.*

Stack's (ANA auction 8/76, lot 21), describes a gold farthing as having "deep obverse scratches extending from St.

Patrick's vestment to..." and this side is the left-hand illustration. All Bowers and Merena place the photograph of the king on the left.

Which is correct, and why?

*(editor's note: I'll be glad to publish a summary of responses, including John's, in the next issue.)*



## A PLEA FOR VERMONT INFORMATION

*Tony Carlotto*

I have been working on a book about the copper coinage of Vermont for the past six years and would like to tie up a few loose ends. Included will be obverse and reverse photos with descriptions. I am a nut for the odd and curious and have included photos of these when possible. High and low planchet weights also intrigue me, and maybe you too.

The majority of colonial specialists are interested in the history, the players' backgrounds, the coining process, and the literature. I have tried to address all these matters and hope to deliver something that gives both pleasure and information. To make this complete I need the help of my fellow enthusiasts.

Here is my "wish list":

1. If you think you have an abnormally high or low planchet weight on any variety, please let me know. I have a Ryder 24 that weighs 63.4 grains and a Ryder 25 at 157.1 grains.
2. Any odd or curious piece such as off center, double struck, Vermonts as undertypes, or unusual die states.
3. Any holdings of the super rarities such as RR-26, & 32 to 39. A new census would be very helpful. Roy Bonjour and Bowers and Merena have done great jobs on Ryder 15 and 30. New finds here would be very helpful.

4. Any thoughts, conjectures, or speculations, no matter how trivial you might think they may be.
5. A list of your scarce Vermont pieces would make for a great help in determining a valid rarity.
6. A list of any high grade pieces which you believe might be condition census coppers.

I would be deeply indebted to anyone willing to forward any information to me. This work has been a labor of love and I know it will not be a profitable venture. You will be given a credit for your contribution. For anyone who wishes to remain silent on your information, holdings, or rarities, I sadly respect your reason for doing so. Please forward your replies to: *Tony Carlotto*, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]



### ***Contemporary Newspaper and Magazine Accounts of Coinage of the U.S. Confederation***

*Wayne Homren has been doing research using old newspapers and magazines. He has graciously shares some of his finds with us (we welcome additional finds anyone may come across in the course of their research. Please include full bibliographic citations, including page numbers, so others could relocate them.):*

Gentleman's Magazine  
London, England, October 1786

NOVA CONSTELLATIO

Mr. Urban:

Oct. 17,

Observing in your last Magazine a representation of a copper, the coin of the renowned Protector, I beg leave to transmit to the public, through the same very entertaining channel, a description of a halfpenny lately struck by the United States of America, which, although of a late date, I presume, be thought no less curious, being the first of the

On one side, encircled within a wreath of LAUREL, exceedingly well executed, are the letters U S in cypher, surrounded with an inscription, LIBERTAS ET JUSTINIA, date, 1785. On the reverse, in the center, is a CONSTELLATION, from which issue THIRTEEN illuminated RAYS, and between each ray is a small STAR, expressive of the THIRTEEN UNITED STATES; round these rays and the stars is the following inscription: NOVA CONSTELLATIO. The new American half-penny is in weight as three to two of the English coin.

The United States, as appears by the inscription on the front of their coin, have erected the standard of liberty and justice. But, from what we have lately heard concerning American politics, I fear, are known only by name throughout that vast, and once flourishing, continent.

P.S. It is a little remarkable that, contrary to antiquarian principles, and the practice of all other states and kingdoms, the have adopted the vowel in preference to the consonant.



The Centinel  
November 15, 1786

## THE ORDINANCE OF CONGRESS

The ordinance of Congress for the establishment of a mint for the United States, was this day read in the Assembly.





**Boston, Massachusetts, November 6, 1787.**

We are informed, on authority not to be doubted , that the copper coin of this Commonwealth, struck by order of General Court, will in a very few days, be in circulation, when, after that time, the coinage of any other State, with the base metal imported from Birmingham, will not be a currency among us.

London, England, February, 1788

## Feb. 2.,

Fig 6, in your Supplement plate, is a coin of NEW JERSEY, one of the thirteen American states. Caesarea is the name of the island Jersey, and is here applied to the new colony, whose badge is the horse's head and plough: e pluribus unum, on the reverse, refers to the confederacy marked by the 13 stripes in the field.

VERMONT LANDSCAPES in top grade wanted. Also looking for R-6 and R-7 New Jersey coppers. Lastly, looking for Continental "Dollar" in choice AU to MS-62, slab

Charles Sullivan, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dan Freidus, [REDACTED]

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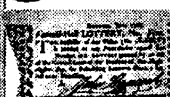
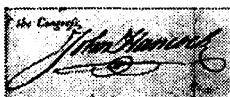
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